

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMBUR 00507 201342Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3343

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS HAMBURG 0507

FOR EUR/CE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, GW

SUBJ: PROFESSOR HERBERT WEICHMANN: HONORARY CITIZEN OF MINNEAPOLIS

1. IN MAY 1974 PROFESSOR HERBERT WEICHMANN, SPD MAYOR OF HAMBURG FROM 1965 - 1971, RECEIVED A SCROLL FROM THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS CONFERRING UPON HIM HONORARY CITIZENSHIP. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, WEICHMANN IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, REVERED BY THE MEMBERS OF HIS ONW PARTY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CDU AND THE FDP AS WELL.

2. WEICHMANN WROTE MAYOR ALBERT J. HOFSTEDE WHEN HE RECEIVED THE HONOR TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR IT AND TO ASK HOW HE CAME TO BE CHOSEN FOR HONORARY CITIZENSHIP OF THE CITY. AFTER WAITING SIX MONTHS FOR A REPLY, WEICHMANN ASKED ME TO WRITE ON HIS BEHALF AND ON NOVEMBER 11, 1974, I WROTE THE MAYOR TO ASK HOW WEICHMANN'S NAME HAPPENED TO COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CITY FATHERS OF MINNEAPOLIS.

3. TO DATE NEITHER WEICHMANN NOR I HAVE RECEIVED REPLIES TO OUR LETTERS AND WEICHMANN HAS ONCE AGAIN REQUESTED ME TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS RELATING TO HIS ELECTION BY MINNEAPOLIS FOR HONORARY CITIZENSHIP. SOMEWHAT EXASPERATED, HE IS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT THE HONOR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CONFERRED AS AN OFFICIAL ACT BY MINNEAPOLIS, BUT MAY INSTEAD HAVE BEEN A MEANINGLESS PUBLICITY GESTURE ON THE

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PART OF UNOFFICIAL CITY BOOSTERS.

4. COULD EUR/CE THEREFORE APPROACH THE OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR AND ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN HOW WEICHMANN CAME TO BE
SINGLED OUT FOR THIS HONOR. WHATEVER INFORMATION COULD
BE PROVIDED US WOULD BE MOST GRATEFULLY RECEIVED BY
WEICHMANN.BROGAN

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NNN

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